THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) A news item has appeared in the print media, where suggestions have been made by ASSOCHAM to revamp the functioning of Railways through a series of measures aimed at increasing internal generations, rationalizing fares and freight, scrapping of unviable projects, funding for accelerated completion of remunerative projects and speedy renewal and replacement work.

The suggestions have been noted by the Ministry of Railways. A number of measures have been adopted for increasing internal resource generation like freight marketing and tariff rationalisation, reduction in internal cross-subsidy in passenger fares, cost-cutting measures and right sizing of staff etc. In the last Railway Budget, a beginning has been made to rationalize the freight structure by removing certain anomalies that had crept up in the course of time. A beginning has also been made to rationalize passenger fare for proper tariff rebalancing by modifying the taper in the fare structure to remove the existing anomalies and making other marginal changes in respect of minimum fares and rationalizing the relativity of fares of various classes.

Improvement of the Railway system is a continuous process. Indian Railways has a regular machinery for identifying areas requiring improvement in functioning and accordingly measures are taken after establishing their feasibility.

Regular Station Master for Mainpuri

†2628. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:
SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Station Master of Mainpuri Railway Station is responsible for the sorry state of affairs at the Station and does not make any effort for improvement there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Station Master has not been appointed thereon regular basis since long, if so, the details in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government would hold a fair inquiry into the complaints received against the Station Master after removing him from there, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when, the Station Master is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Last regular Station Superintendent at Mainpuri Station was Shri B.P. Singh who joined on 11.1.2002. He, however, fell sick on 1.2.2002 and was medically decategorised on 7.5.2002. Shri S.K. Singh, seniormost Station Master has been looking after duties of Supervisory Station Superintendent, Mainpuri since 8.2.2002.

(c) Some complaints received in the past, have been enquired but could not be substantiated.

(d) There are three vacancies in the category of Station Superintendent (in grade Rs. 7450-11500) on Allahabad Division. Filling up vacancies is a continuous process, which is dependent upon the availability of suitable candidates. However, order for posting of Shri N.K. Ram against existing higher grade vacancy of Supervisory Station Superintendent, Mainpuri has been issued.

National Citizen Card for information security

2629. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether as per World Economic Forum, India is ranked 41st in the table of world competitiveness, which is decided by progressiveness of the industry, technological push and the status of deregulation; if so, whether in order to obtain higher rank for India, an annovative system for competitiveness of both the service and manufacturing sectors needs to be evolved;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce a multi-purpose national citizen card, in order to achieve the said objective and to prevent the breach of information security; and

(c) if so, what is Government's plan in this regard?